

British Nature Guide

What is an invertebrate?



Slug



Ladybird



Ant



Wasp



Bumblebee



Butterfly



Snail



Spider

All insects and spiders are invertebrates. They are all quite small and they do not have a skeleton made up of bones.

Instead of bones, many invertebrates have a hard outer shell or casing to protect the soft body inside and to hold it in shape. You can see this clearly in the pictures of the ladybird, wasp and snail above. Some invertebrates like the slug and worm only have soft bodies, with no hard casing.



On the seashore you will find lots more invertebrates. Crabs, shellfish, anemones, starfish, jellyfish and lugworms are all invertebrates. It might surprise you to know that an Octopus is an invertebrate.

Fill in the missing letters to name two more invertebrates that you might find in a garden

W_r_ (This one wriggles)

S_u_ (This one is slimy)

S_a_l (This one has a shell)

S_i_e_ (This one builds webs)